

# Day of the Cowboy makes first ride



Three-year-old Blain Gravem of Prairie City rides saddle bronc Hot Tamale as the horse chases bullfighters Tavin Desadier, 8, of Monument, right, and Tatyn Harper, 9, of Mt. Vernon.

Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

## Prairie City event tips hat to way of the West

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Young and old enjoyed the first-ever National Day of the Cowboy celebration Saturday in Prairie City.

Youngsters kicked off the event that morning with a parade, which began in the halls of the Blue Mountain Care Center as they gave the elderly residents a closeup look at the United States and 4-H flags, along with dogs dressed in costumes. Some cowpokes rode stick horses, and one young girl drove her friend on a ride-on John Deere.

After following a route down Front Street, friendly competitions began at Prairie City park where there were well over 100 participants and spectators.

Youths and adults took part in a dog costume and dog obedience contest, and, at the same time, kids competed in a stick horse rodeo, complete with bull and bronc riding, horse races and more. Eight-year-old Kathlyne Page of John Day, decked out in red, white and blue, said she enjoyed performing with her dog Joy in the dog obedience contest.

"It's a chance to spend time with your dogs and to have fun," she said.

Both the dog obedience and dog costume contests were headed up by Hope 4 Paws: Grant County, a nonprofit pet rescue organization.

Flora Steffan of Paisley who runs the Herd U Needed a Home dog rescue brought six of her rescue dogs, all border collies.

She gave a dog agility demonstration and taught 4-H kids dog obedience tips.

"It's great with a nice turnout," Steffan said of the event. "It's nice to get to know the



Brooklynn Kimball, Blake Kimball and Kori Jo Girven join in the grand entry with Tatyn Harper, back, carrying the flag at the National Day of the Cowboy stick horse rodeo. In back is spectator Fred Winegar.

community here in Prairie City."

FFA members from Prairie City and John Day chapters assisted with the stick horse rodeo along with adult volunteers.

Cinch Anderson announced the rodeo with flair, calling out the name of each stick bronc and bull — Widow Maker, War Paint and Hot Tamale — as well as explaining their past and why they would be a tough ride.

A total of about 50 children participated in the day's events, which ended with an FFA barbecue and a concert featuring singer Brenn Hill and cowboy poet/humorist Andy Nelson and special guest cowboy poet Kathy Moss of Prairie City.

This first-ever Cowboy Day celebration for Prairie City was organized by Moss and Wanda Winegar with help from Judy Jacobs.

Jacobs said they hope to expand it to two days in the future with kids activities one day and horse events for adults on a different day.

"We want to give special thanks to the Grant Union FFA

and Prairie City FFA," Winegar said. "They were a huge help, as well as the other volunteers."

Moss added the volunteer efforts were "outstanding."

"I think it's going to be a great thing if we can continue this on," she said.

She hopes people will understand the event is about sportsmanship in a fun way.

"I am thrilled with the kids that came," she said. "I think it could become a great event, and I'm tickled with their sportsmanship."

**Stick horse rodeo, top three**

All Around, Coyle Van Cleave

**Age 4 and under**

Coyle Van Cleave, first

Beau Van Cleave, second

Blain Gravem, third

**Age 5-7**

Midori Montgomery, first

Brooklynn Kimball, second

Emmie Saul, third

**Age 8 and up**

Anita Peila, first  
Tavin Desadier, second  
Clayton Ineck, third

**Parade**

**Stick Horses**

Henry Workman, McKinleyville, California

Aria Workman, Bates

Brooklynn Kimball, Canyon City

Blake Kimball, Canyon City

Emmie Saul, Canyon City

Tatyn Harper, Mt. Vernon

Bransyn Harper, Mt. Vernon

Quincee Harper, Mt. Vernon

Tarin Desadier, Mt. Vernon

Beau Clingman, Prairie City

Blaine Gravem, Prairie City

Ainsley Peila, Burns

Jackson Peila, Burns

**Dog Costume**

Zella LeClaire and Esther, Prairie City

Reece and Blake Jacobs, Prairie City

Colbie Howard, Prairie City

Midori Montgomery and Taliker

Kathlyne Page, John Day

Riley Davis, John Day

Janine Justice, Canyon City

Flora Steffan, Paisley

**Bicycles**

Preston Davis, John Day

Wyatt Davis, John Day



Young children enjoy the horse races at the stick horse rodeo in Prairie City.



Zella LeClaire, 10, of Prairie City with her dog Esther, a miniature long-hair dachshund, perform at the dog obedience contest.



From left, Cori Anderson and Wanda Winegar look over the stick horse rodeo entries.

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